MONTEREY NEWS

July 2013
VOLUME XLIII · Number 7

The Town

by Susan Gallant

Special Town Meeting

A special town meeting has been scheduled for Friday, July 12, at 7 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. This meeting has been called to get the town's approval on a number of issues, most notably those having to do with amending the zoning bylaws for wireless telecommunications and photovoltaic (solar energy) installation (Article 10) and with getting official town approval for the grader the Highway Department is hoping to purchase (Article 1).

Although some believe that the Proposition 2½ debt exclusion for the grader approved in last month's town election was invalid because the question was not on the official ballot but on a separate slip, that is not the case. The state has approved the election, including the debt-exclusion question, as valid. However, Monterey town bylaws require that raising, appropriating, and borrowing funds for the grader must be approved by written secret ballot at a town meeting, and while voters approved borrowing $275,000 for the grader at last month's annual town meeting, it was done by voice vote and must be officially approved now. Article 1 on the special town meeting warrant will again ask for the appropriation, this time by secret ballot.

Other appropriation issues to be dealt with include requests for approving

- $8,600 for an assistant town clerk (see "Town Clerk News" below on p. 2);
- $10,000 for software and archival material for the town clerk;

Bull moose in velvet, photographed by Patrick Sheridan near Beartown Mountain Road on May 28.

- $3,000 to create the position of assistant treasurer;
- $4,500 to repair the walkway to the library entrance;
- $6,100 for services that would provide a fiber-optic network to connect the town hall, library, and fire department and for software for the Cartographics Mapping Program.

Other articles have to do with terminating the community septic repair program, changing the town bylaws so that town elections will take place beginning at noon on the same day as town meeting, and transferring $1,000 from FY14 town accountant salary to treasurer salary to reflect a change in responsibilities.

Town Audit Report

April Dupuis and Pat Squillante, of the accounting firm Melanson Heath & Co., met with the Select Board to review this year's audit report. Overall, Monterey appears healthy and respectable. The standard recommendation for municipalities is to put between 7 percent and 10 percent of a municipality's budget into stabilization, whereas Monterey's contribution is 20 percent.

The accountants did, however, have some recommendations, one of which was that turnover sheets to the treasurer should differentiate cash receipts from those made by check or credit card, which is not always done by every department.

Other recommendations had to do with more accurate documentation and record keeping regarding how employees are paid and how frequently they receive that pay. Better backup documentation on the payroll register was also suggested for state and federal tax and insurance withholdings from payroll.

There were also some cashbook reconciliation issues, most likely the result of nonstandard formulas being used. To remedy this, the auditors have provided Bethany Mielke, Monterey's new treasurer, with a cashbook specially tailored for Monterey. Stan Ross of the Finance Committee will be working with Bethany on this.

Town Clerk News

With all the recent changes in the town clerk's office, newly elected town clerk, Emily Johnson, was in need of backup from an old hand, familiar with all the responsibilities required of the position. In steps Linda Hunt, at the urging of Select Board chair Muriel Lazzarini. Linda, after more than twelve years as town clerk for Stockbridge, had recently retired but has now agreed to be available to Emily as assistant town clerk for Monterey. The Select Board believes that Linda's compensation should reflect her years of experience and will therefore be asking the town to approve her salary of $8,600 at the special town meeting in July.

Emily has discovered another necessity that needs the town's approval. This has to do with properly recording, both digitally and on archival hard copy, vital information, such as births, deaths, marriages, and voter records, as well as dog-license information. The software was apparently owned by our previous town clerks and taken with them on their departure, and the archival paper has reportedly never been used in the past. These purchases, also included on the special town meeting warrant, come to a grand total of $10,000.

Town Hall Updates

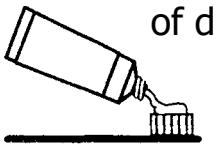
During the June 24 Select Board meeting, the board unanimously approved a change of title for our inter-departmental secretary. Melissa Noe is now Monterey's executive secretary.

Last month, ill health forced Jennifer Goewey to resign as town accountant. Pat Mielke agreed to step in temporarily, until a more permanent solution could be found. That somewhat more permanent solution came in the form of Maryellen Brown, who had been Monterey's accountant at

(*cont. on p. 4*)

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Camp Half Moon

Celebrating 90 Amazing Summers on Lake Buel

Sleepover & Day Camp
Boys & Girls Ages 3 to16
Flexible Sessions
Heated Pool Skate Park High Ropes
Gymnastics Zip-Line Tennis Sailing
Team Sports Dance Crafts Pottery Waterskiing Judo Archery Rocketry Golf
Yoga Camping & so much more!

info@camphalfmoon.com
www.camphalfmoon.com
Call 888 528 0940

Come Join the Fun!

Township No. 1 Day July 6
Free Community Celebration

The Bidwell House Museum is inviting Monterey and Tyringham residents and all friends to the Art School Road fields for a free celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history on Saturday, July 6, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The event is named for the earliest official designation for the settlement—it was called "Township No. 1 at Hoosatonnuck" in 1737. The name was officially changed to Tyringham at the town's incorporation in 1762, and it included both Monterey and Tyringham until they split in1847.

The Bidwell House is planning a full afternoon of programs and entertainment for all ages. Some highlights:

- Live music in the tent: Monterey's own Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker, The Adams Brothers and Walter Palmer of Tyringham, and others.
- For the young and young-at-heart: Games, crafts, popcorn, face-painting, a scavenger hunt, and more.
- For all: Tyringham Historical Commission and Monterey Historical Society exhibits of photos and more.
- For the collector: From 1 to 2 p.m. in the tent nearest the parking lot antiques will be appraised by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, Lenox. Bring your treasure and for a $5 donation (or 3 for $10) you can learn about its origins and approximate value.
- Historic crafts: Rob Hoogs will give a demonstration about early surveying and mapping techniques 1 p.m.
- For the local history buff: From 1:30 to 2 p.m. Peter Murkett will give a talk entitled "Indian Vacation" about Native Americans during first contact with English settlers in the seventeenth century.
- "Three Wives Walk" to the Poet's Tree, 2:30–3 p.m.: Esther Heffernan will lead a walk while regaling us with stories about Adonijah's three wives.
- Stone Wall restoration, 2:30–3 p.m. in the Carriage Barn: Roger Tryon will present a slide show and talk about his work restoring some of Naumkeag's stone walls.
- Meeting House and Stone Wall Walk with Rob Hoogs, 3 p.m.
- Peter Murkett will display several of his craftsman-made chairs 2 p.m.
- Michael White and crew of Michael White Contractors, Mill River, MA, will demonstrate timber framing using vintage woodworking tools 2 p.m.
- For the baker (or the taster), 1:30 pm: A baking contest. Bring your favorite home-baked pies, cakes or cookies and enter them in the taste-off. Prizes for the best confections. Judges are Select Board Members Muriel Lazzarini of Monterey and Chris Johnson of Tyringham, among others. Entry forms can be found on the museum's website.

Please visit the Bidwell House Museum on July 6 and bring your friends! For more details and to confirm times, please check our website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Township No. 1 Day is supported in part by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council.

The Bidwell House Museum is open Thursdays to Mondays (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour, Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Melissa Zdziarski

The Monterey Blasters and Crushers baseball teams with 8–12 year old players from Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield, Great Barrington and surrounding towns enjoyed over 20 successful games during the regular season, which ended June 18 at Monterey's beautiful Greene Park. Summer baseball continues in Monterey on Saturdays at 10:30 and Wednesdays at 5:00 for players interested in informal, casual pickup games. For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com.

TRYON STONEWORKS
Native Fieldstone Walls | Landscape & Excavation Services

Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space.
Quality and experienced craftsmanship for 25 years

Professional stone & landscape design by Roger Tryon of Monterey, MA

413.528.4091 | berkshiremaple@verizon.net | tryonstoneworks.com

(*Town, cont. from p. 2*)
one time. Maryellen will be assuming the accountant's responsibilities through October or until a permanent appointment is made, whichever comes first.

At the June 3 meeting the Select Board reappointed all current members of the Employee Compensation Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of three town employees (Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, and Executive Secretary Melissa Noe), one Select Board member (Muriel Lazzarini), one Finance Committee member (Dan Moriarty), and two citizens at large (Mickey Jervas and Larry Klein). There has been some discussion about the appropriate makeup of the committee, with some people wondering if so many town employees should be on it since the committee advises on their salaries and benefits (see Jonathan Sylbert's column, p. 8), but the Select Board decided to keep it as is for now and possibly add more members, including one from the fire department.

Police Report

In the absence of Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, who was on vacation, Muriel Lazzarini reported the following recent incidents:

- A tree on the Higgins property on Main Road fell so close to the Monterey school that it had to be evacuated.
- An elderly gentleman who had been missing for two hours was found and safely returned home.

Mike Johnson also came by to inform the board of an emergency management grant that will provide a year's worth of reverse 911 service. The web-based service is called Blackboard Connect, and Mike estimates that if the town receives the funding, the service, which will provide emergency notification to full-time residents, should begin sometime next spring.

The Case of the Appearing Yellow Lines

On June 24, Christine Goldfinger, flanked by a half-dozen or so neighbors, joined the Select Board meeting to discuss an issue that has recently arisen on Beartown Mountain Road. Residents awoke on a Monday morning in mid-June to find that their peaceful country road, which had recently been resurfaced, had been painted with two unbroken yellow lines. Chris asked why these lines were painted on a road that had never had markings in the past and why residents had not been told of this beforehand. The overall opinion was that the markings not only detracted from the beauty of the road but also were not in keeping with the character of a road that has as many, if not more, pedestrians and bicyclists as it does cars and trucks.

In an attempt to make sense of the situation, the Beartown residents began searching the Internet and came up with a three-page pamphlet from the Massachusetts Highway Department's traffic engineering division, titled "Pavement Markings: Center Lines and Edge Lines," which includes the following: "Centerlines are required on all paved urban arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 20 feet or more in width and an average daily traffic volume of 6,000 vehicles or greater." They felt that was not exactly a description of traffic on Beartown, since far fewer than 6,000 vehicles are likely to travel the road in a year.

Additional research revealed that the funding for last summer's road repairs came from the state's Chapter 90 program, which supposedly mandates that all Chapter 90-funded roadways must have these pavement markings. The Beartown residents questioned why, at a cost of $800 a mile to paint these yellow lines, would the state want to waste money to mark roads that don't fit the criteria for being marked?

In conclusion, Chris Goldfinger stated, and the other Beartown residents agreed, that besides wanting to know why the lines were painted in the first place, they

ABC
Allentuck Building Company
Licensed & Insured Carpentry Services
in Southern Berkshire County
Home Repair Made as Simple as ABC
Josh Allentuck:
413-329-6260
Prioritize your home repair needs...
Just say HELP!

Tai Chi & Qi Gong
Manage stress as you enjoy better health, focus, balance and a lively spirit!
Suitable for all ages! Start any time!
Free t-shirt with 8-week pass!
"Sifu Kathy and Sifu David will truly help you find inner peace, become proficient practitioners, and really learn to enjoy life to its fullest."
—*N. Hill, Programmer*
Certified, caring instructors

BerkshireTaiChi.com
413-394-4196

wanted them removed, even if they had to do it themselves. The Select Board said they understood the concerns expressed and that the issue would be discussed more at their next meeting.

The Little Playground that Grew

Last month, Julio Rodriguez and Howard Leavy spoke with the Select Board about the possibility of locating a fenced-in dog run on town land, near the firehouse and pavilion. The size of the area would be about an acre, roughly the size of Egremont's French Park. At the time, the Select Board suggested that details, such as cost of construction and rules of operation, should be investigated.

So, on June 24, Julio and Howard returned to the Select Board meeting, blueprints in hand. In the course of planning the playground for dogs, a number of townspeople were consulted, all of whom had suggestions for the area. As a result, the blueprints not only contained the layout for the dog play area but also outlined plans for a playground for children, picnic tables, a basketball court, tennis courts, and an amphitheater, as well as the restoration of paths that would connect this new recreation area with Greene Park. Since there was talk of relocating Jamie's Court, Josh Allentuck of the Park Commission joined the meeting. He was especially concerned about slowing down the Jamie's Court development, which had already been delayed.

The Select Board, after reviewing the blueprints, had a number of suggestions. Scott Jenssen advised that a next step would be to have an engineer walk the site and to get some estimates. Muriel Lazzarini added that before any work can begin, the cost of the project must be determined and presented at town meeting for the town's approval. The general consensus was that since the project had grown considerably in size and cost, the best approach would be to tackle one part at a time.

Memorial Day, This Year & Next

The Select Board offers its heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this year's Memorial Day activities and extends a special thank-you to Bob and Linda Hebert for allowing the town to use their vintage cars in the parade, to Lannie Lanoue and Cynthia Hebert for their expertise behind the wheel, to the crew of the Roadside Cafe who made sure everyone was well fed, to parade emcee Steve Pullen, to George Emmons for emceeing at the Veterans Memorial Park service, to Mike Johnson and Julio Rodriguez for hanging the bunting and making sure that veterans' graves were appropriately dressed, and to Tina Jenssen for handing out flags.

And though the dust from this year's parade has barely settled on Main Road, plans are underway to make next year's Memorial Day parade and activities especially memorable. Mike Johnson, appointed by the Select Board to the Memorial Day planning committee, joined the June 17 meeting to discuss some of his ideas for next year's events. Already, he's contacted the Berkshire Highlanders bagpipe ensemble and a representative of the U.S. Army to ask for their participation. Mike also plans to speak with local gardeners and the gardening club about making wreaths. And there's been talk about floats and even a flyover from Westover Air Force Base.

All those who would like to be part of next year's activities, whether it's to share your ideas for the parade and the memorial service or to volunteer your time, are encouraged to call town hall and leave a message for Mike.

Second Homeowners' Meeting

All those who own homes in Monterey but are only part-time residents here should plan on joining Select Board members at town hall on Saturday, August 3, at 10 a.m. Bring all your questions, concerns, and suggestions. Monterey's Select Board is eager to hear from you. ॐ

MontereyFest 2013 & GOULD FARM 100 Years
Harvesting Hope•Promoting Recovery

Save the Date
Saturday, August 17

A fun-filled day and spectacular evening for the entire family at Gould Farm and Lake Garfield!

• Fishing Contest at the Hatchery
• Children's Entertainment Games
• Petting Zoo
• Hay Rides
• Guided Trail Hike/Lunch
• Boat Rides
• BBQ
• Marshmallow Roast
•Music
• Dancing
• Fireworks

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The

Monterey Fire Company
STEAK ROAST
is
Saturday, July 27th, 2013

Save the date.
Put it in a box under your bed.
Tickets will be available throughout the summer.
www.montereyfire.org

Wanted: Accountant-in-Training

The Town of Monterey is in search of a part-time accountant. Although the official listing for the position asked that job candidates have specific experience and skills, the Select Board, at the urging of Maryellen Brown, former town accountant, would like to cast a wider net for Monterey residents. Anyone with an aptitude for numbers who is interested in putting that skill to use for their town should consider applying for the job of accountant. Maryellen, who is currently assuming the accountant's responsibilities, is willing to train and provide support through October. Of course, anyone with any relevant experience or classroom work is especially encouraged to submit a résumé to the Monterey Select Board, Re: Accountant, P.O. Box 308 Monterey, MA 01245 or via email to townmont@verizon.net.

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2014 Real Estate and Personal Property first quarter tax bills will be mailed on July 1 and are due August 1, 2013. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 1). However, if you wish, you may pay both the first and second quarters now. Once again, pay on-line for current Real Estate and Personal Property bills is available at www.montereyma.gov.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 413-528-1443 x115. The tax collector's office will be closed on July 9.

Maureen Banner

A Cautionary Tale: Make sure your leave your car in gear with the parking brake engaged when parking beside the post office. This car rolled into the Konkapot in May.

Parks Commission Events

Learn to Swim, Watch a Movie

Swim Lessons will be offered at again this year at Lake Garfield in the second week of July and the first week of August. Cost is $5 per child, not to exceed $10 per family. Sign up now at the beach shack at Lake Garfield.

Monterey Movie Night will be Saturday, August 3, at Greene Park. The field will open at 7 p.m., with the Movie starting around 8ish. Don't forget to bring your sand chairs or blankets; concessions will be available.

But which movie? We still need some help to pick this years selection.

The candidates are:

The Incredibles
Despicable Me
Finding Nemo
Mary Poppins
The Sandlot

Please email your pick to montereyparks@verizon.net.

Mad Scot
Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

BERKSHIRE PROPERTY AGENTS.COM

413 528 6800

REAL ESTATE SALES AND MARKETING

12 RAILROAD ST
GREAT BARRINGTON

TIM LOVETT ANNE WALLACH
JEN HARVEY-MONTANO
DEBORAH LEVINSON BILL O'LEARY
TOM LYNCH CHRISTIAN DECKERT
LAURA FETHEROLF DAN BELLOW
ANNIE OKERSTROM-LANG
SHEA POTOSKI ROSE BLODGETT

INFO@BERKSHIREPROPERTYAGENTS.COM

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW DIVISION: VACATION RENTALS

Summer Events at Monterey Library

This summer will be the busiest ever at the Monterey Library!

Our traditional Saturday morning programming for kids starts on July 6 at 10:30 a.m. with Mike Bent the magician. The following Saturday. July 13, John Heffernan will return and bring his Lego Robotics kits—be early at 10 a.m. for that program. There will only be so many kits for building the robots; the earlier you arrive the better your chance of participating with the kits. On July 20 at 10:30 a.m. there will be a story and craft appropriate for younger children. On Saturday, July 27, Tom Seiling returns again to lead young and old alike in song! On August 3 Ed the Wizard will spin more magic in Monterey, and on August 10 Mary Jo Maichack will tell stories that entertain the adults as much as the children.

Children are also invited to sign up for our summer reading program, "Dig into Reading." Pick up your logbooks and some incentives to keep your kids reading this summer. Audiobooks and e-books count as well.

For all ages, the open sewing circle started by Mary Kate Jordan will continue every Tuesday morning from 10:00–11:30 a.m. through August. A huge thank-you to Mary Kate for starting this popular group!

The adult book discussion group is meeting Monday, July 22, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Defending Jacob* by William Landay.

Don Barkin, who seems to be our poet in residence after leading a poetry workshop last summer, will be back by popular demand. His six-week course for ages sixteen and up will be on Monday nights from 7–9 p.m. and starts July 8. The workshop is free—sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and the library. Contact Don at mbarkin@snet.net for details.

Do you have all that? Rumor has it that Moxie the Reading Dog will be back on some Saturday mornings to read with beginning readers as a therapy dog. Other things are sure to happen as well . . . Be sure to bookmark the library calendar on the town website (www.montereyma.gov).

Book Sale!

The Friends of the Monterey Library are busy planning the annual book sale on Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Monterey Library, 452 Main Road. There is a great need for volunteers. A signup poster is available on the outside of the door to the library so you can sign up anytime. Please consider helping at one of the two most critical times—8 to 10 a.m. for the set up and noon to 2 p.m. for the cleanup. The Friends will provide refreshments from the Roadside Store throughout the day for the volunteers. If you can't volunteer make sure to come and get some great books at low prices, and bring a friend.

If you have books to donate please do so by July 12 so the volunteers will have time to sort the books by category, which makes for easier browsing.

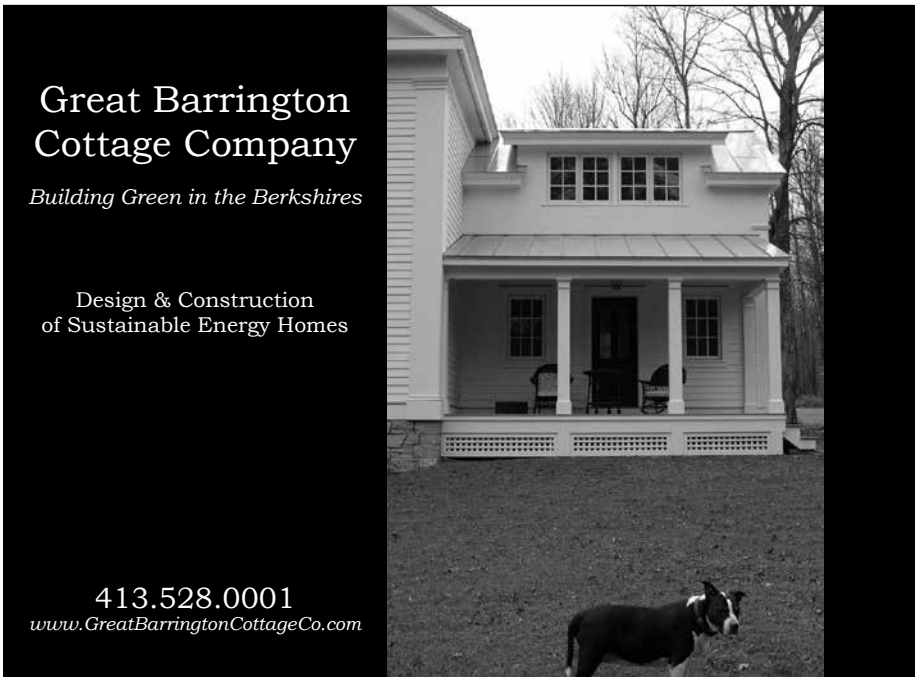
Myrna Rosen will also be running her annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon. Annuals will be donated, as usual, by Clarke's Nursery in Lee. Perennials will be donated by any of you who are ready to divide or just dig up a few spare plants. Dig something up and donate it in order to have some space for something new! You'll be sure to find some splashy color in the way of annuals and some hardy, successful perennials to add to your garden.

All the proceeds from this sale benefits the Friends of the Monterey Library. Come to the library and see all the wonderful things the Friends have done for our library. Whether it was buying another audiobook or some great children's furniture, the Friends have made a huge difference in the activities and services of our library. If you aren't a Friend of the Library yet, what are you waiting for? The book sale is the perfect chance to join in the fun!

Museum Passes

Don't forget that the library has passes to many museums available. They are all different, ranging from free admission to discounts. Look on the website for the list of available passes and stop in to pick them up.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director



Taxpayers' Corner
The Employee Compensation Advisory Committee

Late last July, the Employee Compensation Committee was resurrected by the Monterey Select Board and renamed the Employee Compensation Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of seven appointees—three employees (the police chief, the director of the highway gepartment, and the inter-departmental secretary), a member of the Select Board, a member of the Finance Committee, and two citizens at large—and was tasked with making recommendations to the Select Board and Finance Committee on such items as salaries and health insurance benefits.

The difficulty in tasking a committee of this particular composition with making recommendations on salaries and health insurance benefits is the inherent conflict of interest of members who either a) vote on making recommendations for their own compensation, as with the three employees, or b) vote on making recommendations to themselves, as with Select Board and Finance Committee members.

The conflict of interest can be seen in the deliberations of the committee. The ECAC minutes of 1/18/13 state that the committee reviewed full-time salary ranges in other towns and "noted that our salary ranges will be lower than surrounding towns as last year the employees, Select Board and Finance Committee all agreed to lower salaries and other benefits (like sick-time buyouts, etc.) than surrounding towns in exchange for better health benefits and town/employee split than surrounding towns offer."

Yet, in direct contradiction to this, the ECAC minutes of 2/7/13 state, "The committee felt that all of the highway positions and the inter-departmental secretary's salaries were in line with the surrounding towns." So—on January 18 the committee claimed that salary ranges in Monterey would be lower in exchange for better health-insurance-premium splits, but on February 7 it concluded that salaries for five of the seven full-time positions were in line with other towns. Why, then, weren't the health insurance costs of these positions brought into line?

The fact is, the seven full-time positions in Monterey receive one of the most expensive health insurance plans available, and taxpayers pay 90 percent of the premium, the plan requires no deductible, and copays are low. The average premium split offered to Massachusetts state, educational, and municipal employees (including other towns in our area) is 75/25, with a $750 family deductible and higher copays. The national average private insurance policy premium split is close to 70/30 with a $1,200 deductible, and many private-sector employees pay 40 percent of their premium and have deductibles as high as $2,000.

The committee's voting record further highlights the conflict of interest. At their February 7 meeting, according to the draft minutes, the committee "voted unanimously to recommend that the Select Board keep current eligible employees at a 90/10 split [on their health insurance premiums] and any new eligible employees . . . at an 85/15 split." The committee also recommended that the police chief and sergeant's salaries each be raised by more than $10,000, to $70,500 and $51,156 respectively, and the other five full-time employees' salaries be increased by 2%. Again, if the salaries of most of the full-time positions are in line, why weren't the health insurance costs of those positions brought into line?

It should not be surprising that employees on the ECAC voted both to increase their salaries and to retain the 90/10 split on their health insurance premiums. People will generally vote in their self-interest. What is surprising is that town leaders have allowed the arms-length relationship between employee and employer to collapse. The Select Board is responsible for hiring and managing town employees who provide services for residents. It is not an equal relationship. To appoint employees to vote on recommending their own compensation packages is irresponsible and exposes employees to criticism. Instead, the Select Board should be protecting both the interests of employees and of resident and nonresident taxpayers.

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington,
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 229-7080
Facsimile: (413) 229-7085
Email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

eggs • raw honey • local maple syrup • chevre strawbs & raspberries & greens coming
and more in the worx -
- *also* learn about PEMF@ www.youneedthepulse.com
***re*•CHArgE your HeALth *w/*veGgieS & VoltAgE**
for cellular repair/rejuvenation
call debra @ 413.644.8844
Inquiries welcome to sell your locally made items @
THe Nano sTorE
@ BeuLah LaNd fArm
#519 rt. 23 Monterey

The committee did discuss alternate means of determining employee compensation. On 11/30/12, the ECAC minutes state: "In a non-unionized town it is not uncommon for a group of employees . . . to negotiate informally terms and conditions of employment." But the ECAC *includes* three full-time employees, two of whom supervise the other four full-time employees. It is neither a bargaining unit nor an "informal" negotiating group. A negotiation, even an informal one, means there are two parties, one on each side of the table, not two parties together making recommendations to and for themselves.

If the ECAC is to be free of such conflict of interest, it should be composed largely of independent, knowledgeable residents, and its task, as an advisory committee, should be to recommend competitive salaries and benefits for full-time positions *at a competitive cost to taxpayers*. Instead, the committee voted to maintain a very outdated and uncompetitive health insurance package while also raising salaries. Not a good deal for taxpayers.

The Select Board's response to a recent inquiry about health insurance costs in Monterey was that "making major changes to our current employee's health insurance coverage was not high on our agenda." But making major increases in salaries of some positions was. Again, not a good deal for taxpayers, who depend on their elected officials to mind the store.

—Jonathan Sylbert

Monterey School Now Enrolling for Fall 2013

The Monterey School is a small multi-age school located in the beautiful small town of Monterey. We are now enrolling for fall 2013. We offer Early Kindergarten for children who are now 4, but who will turn 5 between September 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013. We offer Kindergarten for children who will be 5 before September 1, 2013. Both of these programs are free and open to the public. Both programs are also open to children in other school districts through our School Choice Program! Call 413-229-8754 for more information! Or email lwebster@sbrsd.org.

—Lynn Webster,
Monterey Kindergarten

Our Lady of the Hills Opens for Summer

The Roman Catholic church in Monterey, Our Lady of the Hills, will be open for Mass beginning Saturday, July 6. The masses are every Saturday evening through the end of August. The eucharistic celebration begins at 7 p.m. Rev. Bruce Teague will be the celebrant.

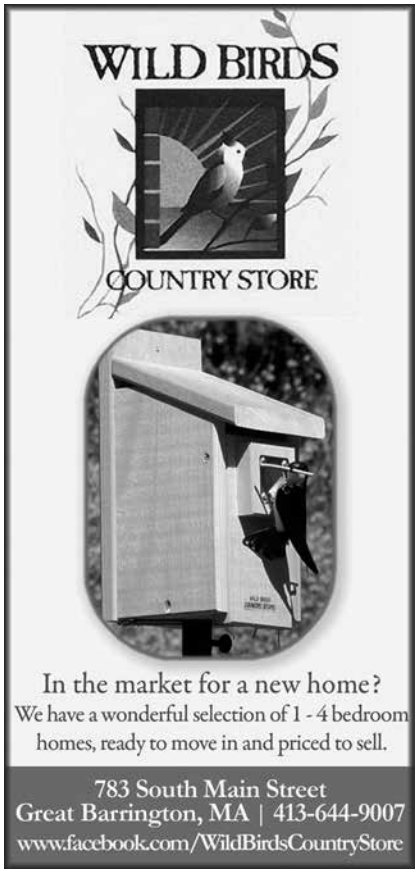
Yes, this is the tiny chapel with the stained-glass angel, not far from Lake Garfield at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. Everyone is welcome.

Berkshire Rail Service Public Meeting July 10

The Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation has awarded a grant to the Housatonic Railroad Co. The grant money will be used to identify the best locations for train stations along the Housatonic Rail Line. Details that will take priority are the impact of a station on the surrounding community and its accessibility so that the greatest number of people can enjoy the renewed passenger rail service.

A public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., at Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington. According to an emailing from Gwen Miller, of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the meeting will include overviews of the project and of Housatonic Railroad's plans for restoring rail service to the Berkshires as well as small-group discussions on a variety of related topics. For more information, email or call Brian Domina at bdomina@berkshireplanning.org, 413-442-1521, ext. 14.

If perhaps, you have just moved to Monterey,
The Monterey Fire Company would like to welcome you.
Over the summer, you will notice your Firefighters selling tickets to the 36th annual Monterey Firemen's Steak Roast on weekends across from the Monterey General Store and at the Monterey Transfer Station.
The Steak Roast fundraiser is an all ages, outdoor family picnic cooked by your firefighters. This year, it will be on Sat. July 27th at 5pm at the Monterey Fire Station.
You and your family are invited and we hope you will come. Introduce yourself to our firefighters when you see them.
Welcome!
What is the Steak Roast? Go to:
www.montereyfire.org


WILD BIRDS
COUNTRY STORE
In the market for a new home?
We have a wonderful selection of 1 - 4 bedroom homes, ready to move in and priced to sell.
783 South Main Street
Great Barrington, MA | 413-644-9007
www.facebook.com/WildBirdsCountryStore

Are You a Friend of Lake Garfield?

How fortunate we are in Monterey to have such a jewel of a lake. It gives us an endless array of beautiful scenes, season after season, year after year. It gives us countless opportunities for fun and recreation. It adds value to all the homes in Monterey.

I am writing to ask you to become a 2013 member of the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) and to join us in our mission: to protect and preserve Lake Garfield for the enjoyment of all in Monterey. Your $35 membership goes a long way. Join at the Special Friend level for $50, or the Very Special Friend level for $100 and the money goes even further.

We put dues to work on such projects as

1) Managing Drawdown—the most efficient, chemical-free way to prevent excess weeds from owning our shorelines: FLG has achieved a longtime goal, partnered with our town and the Conservation Commission. We've met the requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, allowing the town to manage drawdown according to best principles of lake science for the health of Lake Garfield.

2) Additional Weed Control: We stocked the lake with a type of weevil that has a voracious appetite for milfoil, a weed that was choking our ecosystem. It worked wonders! Milfoil no longer poses a serious threat. We continue to monitor this issue.

3) Weed Control on the Shores: With matching funds from the town, we've conducted a three-year insecticide-free test to control purple loosestrife, a weed that takes over shorelines in such great profusion that nothing else can grow.

4) Water Testing: Three times each year, along with a state representative, we test the waters of Lake Garfield for phosphates, oxygen levels, temperature, and other measurements that monitor the health of the lake.

5) We've been on the lookout for those pesky zebra mussels that have already invaded Berkshire lakes. The last few summers, we set traps for zebra mussels in the spring and removed them in the fall. So far, so good. Happily, no zebra mussels to be found in Lake Garfield.

6) And don't forget LakeFest, launched by the Friends of Lake Garfield to bring us all together for a joyous day on our wondrous lake. Now called MontereyFest, it will be better than ever as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Gould Farm with lots of new activities. Fireworks are not part of the FLG budget, but, there's a fireworks fund you can contribute to if you'd like to see the skies light up at MontereyFest on August 17. Checks should be made out to MontereyFest and mailed to PO Box 298, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Jot down the date (rain date is August 18). And while you're writing, jot down the dates of our FLG summer meetings: June 29, July 20, and August 24 at 9:30 am at the firehouse.

A lake like ours needs an organization like ours to protect its health and welfare. Please become a Friend of Lake Garfield. Send your name, address, and telephone number to Friends of Lake Garfield, Box 355, Monterey, MA, along with a check for $35. Or join as a Special Friend for $50, or a Very Special Friend for $100. Lake Garfield needs all the friends we can get.

—Julio Rodriguez, President, FLG

Community Tag Sale to Benefit MontereyFest

MontereyFest on August 17 may seem awfully far away right now, but we all know how quickly the summer days dance by. So how about putting aside a few items you were planning to get rid of—or maybe some things you were thinking to bring to the transfer station . . . or were holding onto in case your kid wants them for a new apartment (never happen)—and donate them to the Monterey town tag sale to be held on Saturday, July 13th.

And then stop that day at 69 Hupi Woods Circle from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. and pick up some new treasures at unbeatable prices!

All proceeds will go toward the myriad activities planned for MontereyFest, including sand castling (it's a Scrabble word!), the marshmallow roast, children's entertainment, and fireworks.

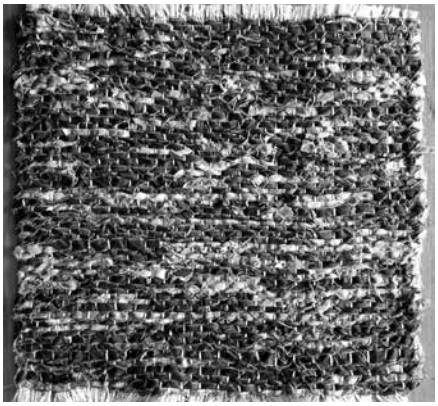
Please bring all items to 69 Hupi Woods Circle on Friday, July 12, from 10 a.m.–noon. Or call Myrna Rosen at 528-9090 to make other arrangements. The more items donated, the more successful the event. So let the fun start early: Saturday, July 13, 10–2 at 69 Hupi Woods Circle.

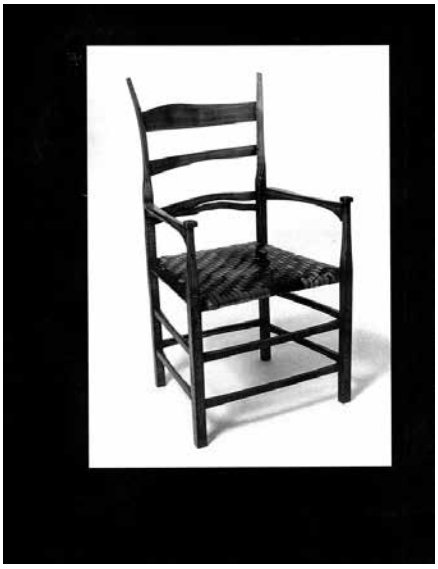
The Harvest Barn Bakery
at Gould Farm

a full service bakery featuring homemade
Pastries ▪ Cakes ▪ Breads ▪ Desserts
we also do special cake and dessert orders

Open Saturdays and Sundays
from 9am to 3pm
located on Gould Rd. in
Monterey MA
413-644-9718

GOULD FARM
Since 1913 · We Harvest Hope





Earrings by Maureen & Michael Banner; Weave + Reweave by MaryPaul Yates; Salvage Seat by Peter Murkett

The Knox Gallery in July

The Knox Gallery, Monterey Library summer community exhibit, *Matter: Reconsidered*, begins July 12, with an opening reception on Saturday, July 13, from 7–8:30 p.m.

The exhibit of two- and three-dimensional work will include one piece by each participating Monterey artist. The show will explore art made from repurposed, recycled, or reused materials. A rich history of artist's reusing materials, whether for economic or aesthetic reasons, for literal content, or spurred by social or political imperative, encourages both artist and viewer to push boundaries and observe the familiar from a new vantage. Collage and assemblage, along with many other art and craft forms, rely on reutilized materials.

The deadline for entry form submissions has been extended until July 5; forms are available at the library and online at the town website (www.montereyma.gov; click on Monterey Library under Departments, then on Forms and Brochures). Work is to be dropped off in person at Monterey Library on July 9 between 9:30am and noon.

In addition to exploring visual expression, the exhibits and opening receptions at the Knox Gallery encourage community gatherings. The gallery also aids in the ongoing library progress: The Friends of the Monterey Library requests that artists make a donation of 20 percent of sale price when a work is sold through exhibition at the Knox Gallery.

The lively and colorful oil paintings in *Edith L. Wilson: Monterey Artist* continue to be on view through July 6. *Matter: Reconsidered* runs from July 12 through August 24. All exhibits can be viewed during library hours.

—MaryPaul Yates

Poetry Workshop with Don Barkin

A free, six-session course in poetry reading and writing will be offered in Monterey starting on July 8. The workshop is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and will be taught by Monterey resident Don Barkin, a widely published poet and experienced teacher. The classes will take place on Mondays from 7 to 9 pm at the Monterey Library. The workshop is open to those sixteen and over. No experience is necessary. Participants will read great poems, old and new, and try their hand at writing poems, in forms such as the ballad and the sonnet, as well as in free verse. Anyone who is interested can email Don Barkin at mbarkin@snet.net or call him at 413-528-3145.

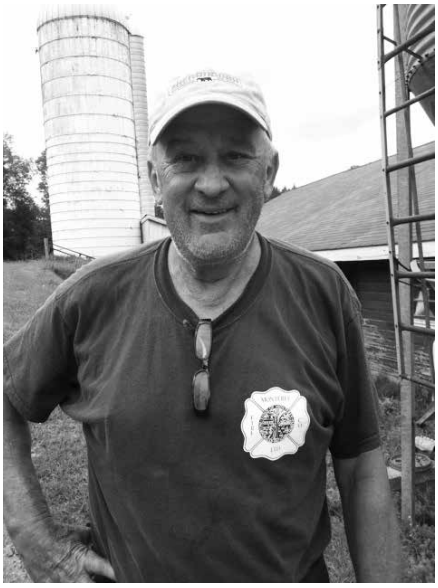
Who's Who in Monterey
Roy Carwile

Roy wasn't the first to greet me when I arrived at his house; neither was Jill. It was Karl, though Shadow wasn't far behind. They'd just been for a walk, and they'd taken Roy with them, now leaping out of the truck to see who this stranger in the driveway was.

Dogs need work, they say; the list of priorities for dogs, they say, is work first, companionship second, and food third. The work of these two dogs is to take Roy on several walks a day. They're doing a good job. Though retired, Roy is hardly sedentary.

Inside, Jill was waiting for the dogs with a towel—and for me with a coat hanger. It had been raining for several days, and the dogs needed drying off and my raincoat needed hanging up. Hot tea was on offer, but I'd just come from lunch at Gould Farm. "Best meal of my week," I said (and with sorrow because Flavio, the community cook, is leaving for other endeavors). They agreed. They know it well. Both spend a lot of time at Gould Farm.

Roy is an unofficial though very reliable member of the farm team, working closely with Wayne Burkhart, with whom he shares an also unofficial but very reliable kinship. Roy admires the way



Elizabeth Goodman

Wayne farms, with time-honored rather than technologically reliant measures. It's the latest way by which Roy lives out his respect for the natural world.

Growing up in Monmouth, Illinois, Roy had meant to be a physician, but at organic chemistry he lost that momentum and turned to geology. He'd earn a bachelor's degree in that at Ohio State, and then a master's in geo-chemistry, which would bring him yet farther east. He spent most of his career working for Alcoa in Pittsburgh, the world's third largest producer of aluminum. Roy was an environmental manager and compliance officer.

This might strike any who knows Roy as surprising. He's outspoken: he'll say what's on his mind, clear and plain. Hardly someone you'd think of as a "company man," Roy stands his ground when it comes to what he knows and what he thinks. But, for this reason, he was just what Alcoa needed (even if they didn't always want him). He was at the hot point where government, industry, engineers, and nature all come to bear. This is a place where ideology falls away, where yes-men are ultimately useless, and where hard truths are wrestled into reality. His most consistent stance is that "environmental problems play out as economic losses." Hired, fired, rehired: he'd spend about three decades standing that ground.

During those years he was also a family man, married and raising his three children, a son and two daughters. They are themselves now grown; they are also parents, the youngest of the three just having delivered the most recent addition. Roy, divorced from their mother, regrets that he doesn't see them all more often, as often as he'd like. But he also respects that the family, after some bumpy times,

Longstanding quality craftsman
timberframe homes / barns
restoration / classic stone
custom furniture design

Eric Pedersen Construction
413-528-3594 / 822-1510
30+ yrs in & around Monterey
eric7inc@gmail.com

CSL#089323 / HIC#144849 / reg. MA Sawyer

Bottomline Builders
Monterey, MA - (413) 528-1260

We are a detail-oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting and building company located in Monterey, MA. From foundation to finish, we provide the know-how to 'exceed your expectations.' Whether you want a built-in bookcase, a new sunroom, family room, or your new country home, our crew delivers the craftsmanship and courtesy you expect and deserve.

PO Box 567
155 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-1260

bottomlinebuilders.com
Scott Jenssen

scott@bottomlinebuilders.net
Massachusetts CSL 62673 - Massachusetts HIC 133864

has found its balance, and he thinks it best to let that be.

So he's become fully engaged in Monterey. Though he came here later in life, he's not letting too many opportunities pass him by. Volunteering not only at Gould Farm, he's also a firefighter and a student of the ecology of the area. "Trees and animals; plants not so much," he explains, are the subject matter for his self-teaching.

"What about the rocks?" I wonder. Or maybe he's had enough of that? "The rocks out west are the most interesting," he says. But each place he's lived is better than where he started insofar as the rocks are concerned. The Midwest is covered in glacial till, he explains. It gives us our breadbasket, of course, but it also makes finding rock a lot more difficult: you have to dig.

Well, anyone who's ever farmed the land around here knows that finding rocks in New England soil is all too easy. Hence the stone walls that wend their way through so many woods. (If life gives you lemons . . .) Hence also perhaps Roy, though still a relative newcomer yet quite at home.

Even the room in which we sit—Roy, Jill, Karl, Shadow, and I—is so perfectly put together that you'd think it was always thus. Full of color and houseplants and comfortable furniture, everything comes together just so.

The piano in the corner is the same instrument Jill learned to play on as a child. The easy chairs where Jill and Roy face each other, riffing gentle jibes at my questions, were a find of Jill's mother, who loves to "antique."

It's Jill who has the eye for color. (A quilter, she says, "I have issues," showing me a cabinet full of fabric scraps, neatly folded and arranged according to hue.)

It's Roy who has the wherewithal to build accent pieces that fit even the most peculiar nooks—under the spiral stairs, beside the pedestal sink, the built-ins in the bedroom and the basement "man cave." You've wondered perhaps what's been going on in what was once Walsh's Garage. Roy's woodworking is your answer. Even all this awkward, bulky equipment has found just the right place—sedimentary rocks all delivered to their perfect spot.

An hour later, Roy has offered up much more than he'd claimed he would. "I've prepared a statement," he joked when we first started out. But I imagine this is often the case. No shame in his game, Roy gives himself to whatever task is at hand. Luckily for us, it's this lovely little town where he has most recently found himself.

—Elizabeth Goodman

ॐ

Bonner McAllester

Personal Notes

Cora Jay Baker (above) graduated June 1 from Holyoke Community College. She majored in Deaf Studies and in her graduating class of 980 was one of the eight valedictorians. Cora is the daughter of Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker of Hupi Road. She was home taught throughout her elementary and secondary education, took some classes at Simon's Rock, and studied in Boston at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Sudi Sparrow Baker, older sister of Cora, graduated in June from the Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences graduate program in nursing. Sudi is a new Nurse Practitioner and will start work as a Hospice NP in Wellesley, Massachusetts, once she returns from a camping trip in the Rockies with her husband, Peter Newby.

Every Community Has At Least One REALTOR® Like Nancy Kalodner.

(In the Berkshires, it's Nancy Kalodner.)

413-528-9595
nancybenchmark@verizon.net

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

BOOK$ THAT BALANCE

Books That Balance
Bookkeeping Services

Darlene Balestro

10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington,
MA 01230
413.528.3944
413.446.4547
booksthatbalance@yahoo.com

intuit Certified ProAdvisor QuickBooks

President of UN General Assembly Visits Mt. Everett

President of the United Nations General Assembly Vuc Jeremic with members of the Mount Everett Model UN; Justin Makuc of Monterey is at front left. (Photo courtesy of the Berkshire Record*)*

It's not often that we in the Berkshires are graced by the presence of presidents of powerful international organizations, but this June 11, one such authority did just that. President of the United Nations General Assembly Vuc Jeremic came to Mount Everett on that day to discourse before the student body, converse with the Mount Everett Model UN, and consume delicious refreshments courtesy of the school's culinary department.

A diplomat with a degree in theoretical physics and his fair share of studies at Oxford, President Jeremic was invited to the school courtesy of junior Michael Whitaker's grandmother, who knows the president's grandmother. He visited along with the Serbian Ambassador to the United States, Vladimir Petrovic, and other esteemed dignitaries. President Jeremic was treated to a surprise rendition of the Serbian National Anthem and the attention of Mount Everett's student body as he delivered a speech informing the assembly of his work and the issues he must face in it. "We live in a world that is changing and is becoming more difficult, more diffuse, and more diplomatic than in the past," he said, explaining that the UN is an organization that works to tackle the problems present in such a changing world. He then answered inquiries from students regarding the principal difficulties found in creating world peace, potential UN Security Council reform, and the ongoing conflict in Syria. In more private meetings, President Jeremic had lunch with the parents of Model UN members and subsequently answered some Model UN members' queries, including a question regarding the General Assembly's stance on the Serbia-Kosovo conflict—a question hitting close to home, as the president is an ethnic and national Serb.

The Mount Everett Model UN asked that question and others in order to fulfill one of its principal goals, the understanding and replication of international diplomacy in the environs of high school students. As a Model UN, the club meets bimonthly to plan the attending and creating of diplomacy simulations based on real-world conflicts such as Kosovo and Korea, on occasion meeting with other schools' Model UNs for larger simulations. It also sends representatives on trips to the United Nations building in New York City, through the Railroad Street Youth Project of Great Barrington. Monterey holds two members in the Mount Everett Model UN in Joseph and Justin Makuc.

"You gotta be a believer in the better world," President Vuc Jeremic said to the students of Mount Everett Regional High School, and while that sentiment is often thought of as confined to the hallowed halls of the UN building, it yet rings throughout Monterey and its neighbors as a feeling that is also of the Berkshires.

—Joseph Makuc

Otis
Farmer's
Market
Saturdays 9am-1pm
See what's happening in July!
*7/6: Auction Wars
*7/13: Farm Day
*7/20: Pet Day
*7/27: Room for Shrooms
Come check out the vendor of the week!
OtisFM1@ymail.com
Local Farm-Fresh Goods for Sale
L&M Auto
Gulf Station Parking Lot
2000 East Otis Road

Green Arts Garden Design
Accredited Organic Land Care Professional
Certified Horticulturist
Design-Installation-Maintenance
Ruth Green
413 528-5908
ruthgreen7@verizon.net
www.greenartsgardendesign.com

Mary Kate Jordan

From the Meetinghouse

Pleasures of the Library

Our Monterey Library is one of our finest resources. And, as my most recent read from that source underlines in indelible audio-ink, you and I live, move, breathe, and eat in a shared physical world.

Eat? Yes, eat. I'm reading Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. If you're a person who eats, put down this article right now. Go to the library. Sign up to reserve the audio book as soon as I get it back.

OK, you'd better check your clock and calendar against the library hours first. You may have to wait a bit, but that's a good thing for any of us. Imagine: start that habit and soon we'll be more alert for other seasonal opportunities available in the physical world we share, like strawberries, and next month's fresh corn.

You can download the book directly onto your favorite e-reading device, of course, but if you do, make it a point to go to the library sometime soon anyway. Make a connection with the items on the shelves, the artwork in the gallery, and, most of all, the fabulous staff and volunteers. In whatever way suits you, become a friend of our library. It's not animal or vegetable, but it's sure a local miracle, right here in our shared physical world.

—Mary Kate Jordan

People

I am joyful, I am friendly,
She is wonderful, He runs quickly.
I am a singer, She is a teacher, He is powerful.
We are all people, sharing the same sun,
We are close together people,
Now, this poem has just begun.
The speaker booms loudly,
We all speak truly, at least I hope we do,
We have to be careful with the words we use.
He wants to be a farmer, She wants to be a fighter,
We are all hopeful that our dreams come true.
Most of us act safely when we are at school,
Being a good listener, always acting calmly,
And after that,
Swimming in the pool.

—Charlotte Micklewright

Blossom Story

Wyn
loves the tale of Fletcher the fox
and his springtime amazement
at a late snow. Alerting
woodland friends, they caper,
scamper, scram, to catch
not snow but pear and apple blossom
flakes
like these
that storm down on me in this early
morning's
cavorting wind, freshness, and
wistful missing of
Wyn.

—Donna Burkhart

Botanical Pottery
made in Monterey!
GRENADIER
POTTERY

Look for me at the
Great Barrington
Artisans Market
(next to the Farmer's Market)
July 6 and 20!
Monterey Gallery is almost
always OPEN, call for hours
413 528 9973
www.grenadierpottery.com
12 Tyringham Rd, MONTEREY MA
Take Rt 23 East from Gt Barrington to
center of Monterey & look for my sign

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 17 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Milkweeds Galore

High summer is upon us, long and light. The living world is tuned up for it, now that we have crossed over the summer solstice.

Trees have bloomed and now they are pumped for growing and making fruits and seeds. Trees are pre–solstice bloomers, mostly. Down on the ground, many smaller plants that live under trees have also bloomed early, needing to get this done before the serious leaves of summer turn big and dark and shade over the small neighbors. Out in the open, though, many a plant is coming into its blooming time. They have been growing tall and strong, to support summer flowers and fruits that are often weighty with size and with purpose, which includes show. The designs are fancy and made to order, part of a story that includes many another plant or creature, making it hard to know where to begin thinking about things.

Maybe one way to start is to walk out into a field of wildflowers and close your eyes. Just take a deep breath. If it is midmorning and you are in our orchard or upper pasture, you will be dizzy with sweetness. This is when the milkweeds are sending it out on the breeze and nothing else matters. This message is not made just for us folks, but here we are, citizens of summer, inhaling and exhaling just like all the rest of life. We are participants.

Milkweed is also called Virginia silk, pleurisy root, butterfly weed, Indian hemp, and cottonweed. Many people also associate milkweed with monarch butterflies. This is where the monarchs come to drink sweet nectar and to lay their eggs, on the undersides of the big oblong or oval leaves.

Monarch eggs are pearly, and when they hatch, tiny caterpillars begin munching right away and in ten or twelve days reach their full length of two inches. Such quick growth comes from the marvelous nourishment in a milkweed leaf.

Here in our garden and orchard, there is not much to eat before the summer solstice, at least not much that was planted by us. Lettuce is ready, and asparagus and kale. There is plenty of promise in the young corn plants, potato foliage, strong tomato and bean youngsters a foot tall. What we have been actually eating, though, has been the wild things, from ramps (wild leeks) to nettles and garlic mustard—both leaves and flowers. Pokeweed shoots also come early and strong.

This year the great edible green for me has been milkweed. I break it off young and tender. It is coming up among the corn plants and potatoes, also the bean beds on the orchard side of the garden. I don't worry about depriving the monarchs because milkweed is so plentiful here this year. There's more than I can eat, more than I can discourage. Every place I go snipping and picking, there are more little shoots in a day or two. Underground roots keep traveling and sending up plants, headed for the sun and for the insects that come to drink nectar and then carry pollen.

Milkweed flowers are intricately designed to trap the feet of some insects. There is a little crack or crevice into which a bee's foot slips. When she tries to pull forward, her foot is still held tight so she has to yank hard, which dislodges a little "saddlebag" of pollen that twists around her foot or claw as she flies off. Some

Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts
Classical Acupuncture
Zen Shiatsu

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac.
Licensed in CT and MA
Call for an appointment
413-258-4296

WE SET THE PATH
WEBSTER
design landscape horticulture
1719 North Main Street Sheffield, MA 01257
413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com

honeybees have been observed cleaning off the pollen bags before entering the hive. Sometimes a bee can't quite pull loose from a milkweed flower and dies there. This does not happen to the bigger, stronger bumblebees.

We know milkweeds also for the big seedpods, which form and then split along one side. The wind teases out the silky seed tufts, and each one carries a seed by means of a little ring or harness of silk around a pointed projection on the seed's surface. The seed either dries and shrinks, dropping loose, or else the silk ring expands with humidity and lets the seed fall. Either way, the next generation is carried a good distance from the parent plant, assuring pioneering dispersal of its particular genetic mix.

Milkweed silks are strong and gleaming white. People have thought up uses for them, including ginning them (getting the fluffy silks off the seeds, as with a cotton gin) and putting them into floatation devices for water safety. They have also been used for insulation. Just look at the *Mother Earth News* back in the day (Sept./Oct. issue 1979) and you can find an article on how to make a down jacket from milkweed fluff. Ah, the 1970's! A hundred years earlier, many things were made of milkweed in Salem, Massachusetts: "The silk from the pods makes an excellent article for stuffing cushions, pillows, mattresses," and fibers from the stalks were used for, "thread, netting, bags and purses, tapes, socks, knotting for fringes, etc" (Francis Peyre Porcher, *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests, Medical, Economical, and Agricultural . . . Prepared and Published by Order of the Surgeon-General, Richmond, Virginia*, 1863; reprint, New York: Arno Press, 1970).

I've got a book (*The History and Folklore of North American Wildflowers*, by Timothy Coffey [New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1993) which says I can even spin the silk to make candle wicks that are superior to cotton (p. 174). This interests me because I do save all my old stubs, melt them down, and dip candles. But not now, not in July. These days I walk out into the orchard, close my eyes, and breathe deep.

—Bonner J. McAllester

New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery Exhibit

Visual Metaphors, an invitational show featuring thirty regional mixed-media artists, will be displayed in the Meeting House Gallery, 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, from July 26 through August 25. Works include ceramics by Ben Krupka; bird carvings by Maria Gay; sculpture from Peter Barret and Patrick Stolfo; paintings by Ellen Murtaugh, Ann Getzinger, and Robin Crofut Brittingham; photography from Lee Backer and Larry Silk. There will be an opening reception on July 26, 5–7 p.m. For information call 413-229-2785, or go to www.newmarlborough.org.

CHP Farmers' Market and Flea Market

Community Health Programs (CHP) has expanded its third annual Farmers' Market to include fresh bakery goods and a small flea market, along with a variety of fun activities each week including cooking demonstrations and Fit WIC (a Let's Move program).

The market is open every Thursday through September 26 from 3:00–6:00 p.m. at Community Health Programs' Family Services building, 442 Stockbridge Rd., Great Barrington

The CHP Women Infants and Children (WIC) program is proud to support local farmers and encourage the consumption of fresh, nutritious, locally grown fruits and vegetables by making them accessible through this market. Conveniently located on the bus route off of Route 7 at the bottom of Monument Mountain, CHP's Farmers' Market provides a weekday shopping option and a venue for CHP staff to educate patients and the general community about the benefits of healthy eating.

Participating farmers support CHP's special commitment to ensuring the market's availability to low-income families and seniors by welcoming WIC and Seniors Farmers' Market checks, SNAP, and Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) for eligible foods. Credit cards will also be accepted.

For more information, please call CHP's WIC office at 413-528-0457 or email WIC@chpBerkshires.org.

ॐ

PETER S. VALLIANOS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
✤
413-528-0055
fax: 413-528-6475
email: p.vallianos@verizon.net

30 years experience in Monterey
serving your real estate needs
including purchase and sales,
zoning issues.
Board Member,
Monterey Preservation Land Trust

New location convenient to Monterey
30 Stockbridge Road (Route 7)
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(Just north of Belcher Square)

Karen Shreefter Landscape Design

Working with clients to create captivating landscapes & gardens

413.528.1387
karen@kslandscapedesign.com
www.kslandscapedesign.com

Rawson Brook Farm . . . 30 Years Old

Part 1: Early On

Susan Sellew

The first farm: Pinchcut Road, Macomb, northern New York, 1970s

I was part of the back-to-the-land movement of the '60s and '70s. After attending Antioch College for three years, I opened a small leather shop in Great Barrington where Eagle Shoe is now and received college job credit for the endeavor. The taste of self-employment was delicious. With my tools and a stack of suede in various colors, I moved to Boulder, Colorado, where I supported myself making brightly colored leather hot pants, lederhosen style, which I sold to stores on The Hill, the hip part of town. A signature feature on these shorts was the buttons I had fashioned from slices of deer antlers my dad had found in the woods here in Monterey where Rawson Brook Farm is today.

One day I walked into the Whole Earth Catalog Retail Store—and my world shifted. I walked out with my new bible, Rodale's *How to Grow Fruits and Vegetables by the Organic Method*, and a book published in 1947 called *Land for the Family*. I know every page in those two books intimately, even though I now don't particularly remember what the pages say.

We (then-husband Wayne Dunlop and I) moved to Maine with this new homesteading dream in our heads and lived on an abandoned farm in Limerick, just west of Portland. We had taken a DriveAway (you transport someone's car) from Colorado to Maine and had no car of our own. The neighbors gave us a pink semiautomatic 1955 Plymouth.

I bought my first goats early in 1971: a milker and a young kid. Even though my first vivid childhood nightmare involved the neighbor's goat Suki climbing up my bedroom curtains, I was now smitten with these lovely beings. The first afternoon it took the two of us forty-five minutes to milk the mischievous jet-black Vengetta; we were all such novices. It was a messy affair that yielded no drinkable product: milk spilled and splattered everywhere. After a week we were proudly filling our one-half-gallon bucket with absolutely clean milk with about four minutes of effort. I planted my first garden often scooching along on my butt between the rows with the young kid, Eunice, sitting on my lap. I was in heaven.

Toward the end of that year, we moved (with our goats, pig, bees, and freezer full of food) to impoverished northern New York, then a haven for many young land-seeking folks like us. With Wayne's brother and wife, we bought, for $18,000, a 260-acre farm with a house, dairy barn, old horse barn, and garage. They took out a loan for the down payment, and we paid the former owner the $102 monthly mortgage payment. Wayne and I had sixty of the acres, the house, and the other buildings.

For those who believe a second home should still be first class

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
real estate
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413.528.4859

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

with
KIT PATTEN
Lotus Palm School Certified
"The best massage I ever had." – E.D., Monterey
413-528-3798

Our life was jam-packed with experiences growing and foraging and preserving all sorts of things. Along with the lovely and always-entertaining goats were pigs, rabbits, laying hens, turkeys, meat chickens, big gardens, you-pick-it strawberries, maple syrup, honeybees, calves, draft horses, and on and on. We learned to graft fruit trees, smoke hams, grow grain, pickle things in crocks, take our hay in loose (not in bales), make tortillas from scratch with our own dried corn and wood ashes from the kitchen cook stove. Wayne would go on adventures to Hickory Lake with the old-timers and come home, often in the middle of the night, with pike, frogs' legs, and snapping turtle. Black Lake was where the wild rice grew. One year we spent $200 at the grocery store.

Eventually I attended a cheese-making workshop sponsored by the St. Lawrence County Agricultural Extension and presented by Martine Gadbois, a French cheese maker from Montreal. Because I was so infatuated with the goats, my herd had grown to fourteen by that time, and although I made cheese, it wasn't consistently good; many times it was quite awful. Martine got me on track, and I felt another shift; I absolutely knew what I wanted to do.

It became clear that we would have to move. It was heart wrenching to leave the farm and all our friends, but there would be no local market for goat cheese; the average family income was $4,000 per year in our town. We considered other locations that would have potential markets before realizing that what we really wanted was to come home to the Berkshires. I had grown up in New Marlboro and Wayne in Monterey. If we couldn't sell our cheese in this ideal location, halfway between Boston and New York, we would simply have to do something else. The first challenge of course was the Berkshire economy, especially real estate. It was way out of our league, but things have a way of working out.

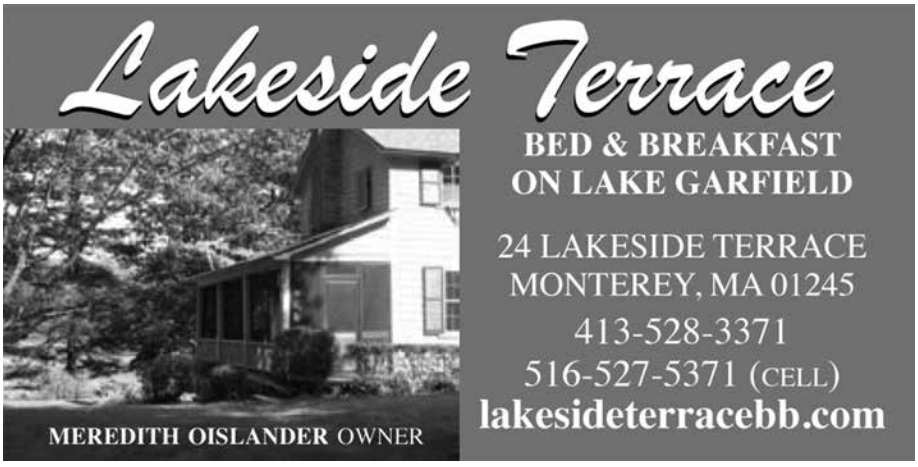
In the fall of 1978 we moved. After a false start in Sandisfield, my dad agreed to give us some of his wooded land in Monterey, seven acres of a larger parcel his grandfather had given him for his twenty-first birthday. Upon returning from Europe after WWII, he had built a log cabin on the Monterey land, and every summer we would rent our house in civilized New Marlboro and move three and a half miles over the North Road to our log cabin in the woods. I spent much of my childhood wandering in these woods; I love this piece of land like family. Our plan was to clear it and build our farm from scratch.

Looking back, I wonder why my father was willing to let us start this crazy project on his property. What if we lost interest and left a great big mess? No one thought it a wise endeavor; we had framed a letter from the Soil Conservation Service in Pittsfield saying that it was most impractical to think of clearing a wooded piece of land for a dairy farm and that they wouldn't advise it. In addition, no one was yet making goat cheese commercially in the United States, although there was talk of a Laura Chenel in California. Did my father actually believe in our project, or was it that he just couldn't say no to his daughter?

to be continued . . .

— Susan Sellew

On Sunday, October 13, we will celebrate our thirtieth anniversary here at the farm.



Otis Cultural Council Events

On Sunday, July 28, the Otis Cultural Council will present "The Nutshell Playhouse," a free program, at 11:00 a.m. at the Knox Trail Inn. The show will consist of original music, clownerie, and puppets, for the whole family (413-269-4400).

On Saturday, August 3, the Otis Cultural Council is sponsoring a free concert, "Spicy Summer Celebration," by, Trio Candela, a three-piece Latin American and Caribbean band, with special guest musicians (www.tamarackhollow.com), at Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 23, East Otis. Latin food will be available from 6–7:30 p.m., with music following from 7:45–9:30. Call to reserve seating: 413 269-4400.

Trio Candela performs folkloric Latin music from Cuba and the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America, as well as original creations. The group features Juan Basillio-Sanchez from Nicaragua/Chatham, NY, on rhythm guitar and vocals with musicians Aimee Gelinas on conga, vocals, and percussion and Daniel Cohen on guitar. Guest performer Lauren McDonald from Ghent, NY, will join the trio on violin and keyboard. Trio Candela has been performing since 2007 at venues such as the Colonial Theater and 3rd Thursdays in Pittsfield, Festival Latino of the Berkshires, and the Becket Arts Center.

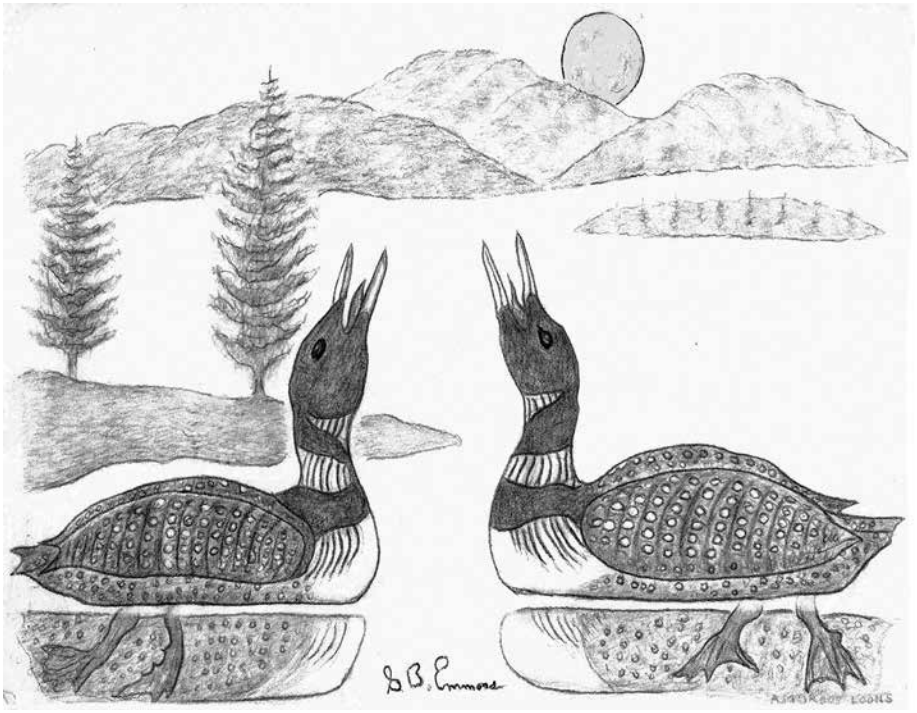
Hunter's Household Help

Energetic, 6-foot-tall, 15-year-old boy looking for odd jobs!
**Lake Garfield
and surrounding areas**

Mowing
Painting
Gardening
Spin trimming
Furniture moving
Yard/Beach Cleanup
Any job that you may have!

Will work alongside of you, let Hunter do the hard work!
Call 528-1723
Hunter Andrus

Lakeside Echoes & Reflections



Near Lake Garfield cottages on Elephant Rock, Sylvan, Hupi, Mt. Hunger, or Bidwell Road, the sound of children at the beach, voices from lakeside porches, and the drone of outboard motors carry across the water. Noise levels may diminish as the sun goes down until the bugle call of taps from Canada geese in shadows of the shoreline. Larger boats launched at the ramp have sonar fish finders for echolocation, sending out signals not for human ears that under water that travel at 5,000 feet per second in 70-degree water of minimum bottom refraction.

Sound propagation under water was first recorded by Leonardo da Vinci in the year 1490: "If you cause your ship to stop and place the head of a long tube in the water to the outer extremity of your ear, you will hear ships at great distances from you." In the twentieth century invention of the Fathometer depth finder was followed by sonar echo-ranging systems to hunt submarines. In the Cold War, top-secret propeller design enabled nuclear submarines to avoid confrontation and to run silent and deep to launch an underwater reprisal at an undisclosed location. The Doppler search wave continues indefinitely in time and distance until bouncing off an object for echolocation.

Over Lake Garfield, a full "Buck" Moon will rise on July 22, so named for the time when buck deer normally grow their new velvet-covered antlers. Beside the glass surface of a lunar mirror a lakeside seat may be bright to read a good summer book from the Monterey Library. But quiet concentration can be broken by a rumble of distant thunder, whose reverberations and echoes steal one's attention. The distance to lightning can be measured by sound waves using the rule of thumb that very second between the flash of light and the arrival of sound is one mile. While sleeping on a cold night in the dead of winter, one may be awakened by a crack out on the lake outside the bedroom window, as water levels may drop to begin a chain reaction of cracking ice, resounding like a rumble of thunder, but out of season.

Long ago at Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau in a twilight moment of transcendental reflection thought the tremolo of a loon was the most unearthly sound he had ever heard. Native Americans called the loon "rain bird," as they detected in the wail approaching precipitation, like the vibration of hoof beats through the ground and a distant train through the rails. The presence of loons is a favorable measure of the health of the ecosystem. They do not nest in Lake Garfield, and their visits are transient. Having survived for millions of years largely on water, my concern is that due to aquatic disturbances, the future may bring a silent spring on golden pond.

Waves talking to the shore
Loon voices heard no more
Lunar echoes and reflections
Lakeside memories of yore

—George B. Emmons

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

BERC
BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER

- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Wetland Delineation and Restoration
- Ecological Research and Education

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
tcoote@simons-rock.edu

My Turn

Nature: Keep Out

I own a house here in Monterey. It was built right in the forest, the structure erected after a portion of the land had been cleared. And that was the attraction. One could live amidst nature—trees and flowers outside the windows, wild turkeys and deer on the grass, birds and butterflies flitting about, bears and moose reportedly in the vicinity.

But "nature" should know its place (just as I do mine when I enter its realm). But it doesn't. It should accept the fact that the house is off limits, is my domain, and that it is not welcome there. It should not intrude, but instead remain outside and be content with the wide-open spaces and territory that it rightly possesses. I don't mind if bees buzz busily among the flowers alongside the house. I certainly welcome the fact that birds continually nest under the gutters of my roof. When ants march back and forth on my porch, I'm fascinated by their dexterity and determination. I'm full of admiration for the astonishingly intricate webs spiders spin on my deck. I'll even accept, albeit reluctantly, a colony of wasps that have decided to set up quarters along my roofline.

But that's where it ends. Boundaries must be drawn, territorial integrity maintained.

Human habitation is intended to be sealed off from nature (excepting all the plants, allowed in to decorate interior spaces). And that's why I contend constantly with intruders, those creatures that flaunt this fundamental principle. Flies and moths must be pursued relentlessly and either guided to exit through an open door (often an immensely frustrating task) or face summary execution via a rolled-up newspaper or flyswatter. Ants cannot be allowed to roam freely. When discovered they must be scooped up and tossed outside, or if mortally wounded when captured, flushed down the toilet. More severe retribution awaits the occasional wasp that manages to breach the defenses. They are not helpless, have the means to inflict pain. They must be approached from a distance and dispatched with a burst of bug spray.

Then, there are the mice. Toward them I have a degree of sympathy. They've come inside because here they can discover places that are moist, warm, and comfortable; plus, morsels of food and crumbs lying about offer easy pickings. But, in no way are they welcome. Lacking basic manners, they persist in producing droppings, depositing their waste wherever they so please. Their punishment is thus severe, as traps and poisons take their toll.

Surely a case can be made that nature was here first, one that makes me the intruder. Also, that no harm will come to me if I accept cohabitation and coexistence with some of nature's least menacing creatures. I'm not buying it. Did not God bestow upon man full authority over all the creatures on earth? Am I not then justified in exercising my rightful prerogatives?

—Richard Skolnik

Richard blogs at www.catchmydrift.net.

ॐ

Graham and Barbara Dean at Knox Trail Inn July 13

Singer/songwriters Graham and Barbara Dean will be presenting a program called "Songs of the Berkshires and Beyond" on Saturday night, July 13th, at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis. A buffet will be available beginning at 6 p.m., and music will begin at 7:30 p.m.—no charge for the music.

The Deans have lived in Great Barrington for more than thirty years, have raised four children, and have been singing and writing songs together for almost as long. The program will include songs inspired by life in the Berkshires, as well as "story" songs about the lives of little-known people, and songs of social and historical import. The Deans are hosts of a radio show on WBCR-lp in Great Barrington, 97.7 FM, streaming live at www.berkshireradio.org, which airs every Wednesday night from 8 to 10 p.m.

Otis Arts Festival July 27

The Sixth Annual Otis Arts Festival will be held on Saturday, July 27, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., indoors, at Farmington River Elementary School, 555 No. Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis. Artisans and craftspeople will have ceramics, fiber, water and oil paintings, photography, jewelry and many more. Admission is free. For information, call 413-269-4674.

Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections

Part 9: Tyringham Road

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Scott's Landing (now the Amidons' Lake Garfield cottage) and Tyringham Road, circa 1900. The roadway was relocated later when the dam was reconstructed. The house on the right where the town beach is now was an ice house for ice blocks cut from the lake (photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society).

Let us begin this trip by visiting the church on the corner of the Great Barrington and Tyringham Roads. It was built about a century ago [Julius Miner was writing this in the mid-1940s], in 1847, to be exact. As we enter, the stairs on each side lead to the choir loft. From this loft, a small door shows the way to the belfry. It is well worth climbing to the belfry for otherwise one cannot realize what a surprisingly fine view is there afforded of more of the town.

While climbing the stairs, look for the family of bats which lives between the blinds and the window. They have been coming here for years. Please, do not disturb them for they catch many gnats and mosquitoes. Watch them any evening catching the insects gathered around the street light at the corner of the library lawn and see them frolic over the river. The bell is of some interest. Note its pure tone when next you hear it ring its call to service. Several bells were brought to Monterey for trial and were hung from scaffolding so that the local people could make comparison and choose wisely. The foundation stones were quarried right here in Monterey.

The first house on the left was built for a tavern. Notice the recessed doorway. Beyond the barn was a blacksmith's shop. Opposite this was a house that had many summer guests. The owner knew and employed Indian youth who were students at Hampton Institute. Their quiet ways and sweet voices enriched our village life.

After passing the next house, we see a cellar hole. Once an old lady who lived here smoked her pipe in bed and set the bed afire. The whole house burned down before she could be rescued. Along here, look in the stone wall for jasper. When passing the first house on the left look for purple finches. Note the barn on the left and the swallow nests in it. Swallows arrive and depart for the season on regularly scheduled dates. Watch for their departure the last of August.

Now observe the large farmhouse. Here lived a man who crossed the ocean, visited the duchy of Holstein and brought back some purebred Holstein cows in order to introduce a new breed at Monterey. Eventually, he had over a hundred head of Holstein cattle and it was a delightful sight to watch them grazing over the land which is now used for the golf course.

Look for redwing blackbirds in the

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management
Residential - Commercial

KMB
HOUSE CHECKING
UNLIMITED

Kristopher M. Balestro
10 Stevens Lake
Great Barrington, MA 01230

kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

marshy growth by the lake and for muskrat mounds. Next is the dam. Observe the large stones in the foundation. In the year 1847, these were brought from the foundations of the old church. They were carried by being swung with ropes from the underside of ox-carts. At the top of the hill lived a man, known for his unusual honesty. He operated the lime-kilns we will see when taking the South Lee trip. At the Boston and Albany Post Road [Mount Hunger Road], on the left is the Morse Schoolhouse. This section is known as the Morse District. Beyond, on your right is his home, a cellar hole marking where one of our earliest settlers made his home.

On over the hill we cross a little stream and find on the right an abandoned road. On this road there was a tavern where some of Burgoyne's army stayed, as prisoners of war, while on their way to Boston. Three are said to be buried hereabouts. If we continue on this old road for about a mile, we come to an interesting elevation. A path on the right, leads us shortly to a perpendicular ledge, perhaps a quarter of a mile long and thirty feet high.

Returning to the Tyringham Road, look for the trunk lines of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company. On the left, follow these in a short distance and look for another ledge with long horizontal seams of whit quartz. These seams differ much in width.

Going back to the Tyringham Road, let us continue until we see a little lake [Steadman Pond] on the left. Between this lake and the highway, is a small elevation of ground where Indians worked with flint. Their discarded chips of flint are still to be found here.

Looking back, we see that there is a long and steep hill to be climbed on the return trip, so we might better get started back. Look at the hillside across the valley on your right. Every year, the Indians came there to tap the maples in the Spring. Our first settlers learned from the Indians the secrets of making maple syrup and maple sugar.

ॐ

Otis Library Teen and Young Adult Book Club

This Is Not Your Mother's Book Club! A new teen and young adult book club is forming this summer at the Otis Library. The meetings are the first and third Sundays of each month from 6–8p.m. The first meeting is July 7 and the first book is *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk. Free copies are available at the Otis Library! for more information contact kaylanscott1993@gmail.com or check it out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nymbookclub.

Bidwell History Talks on Native Americans, Archaeology

On Saturday, July 13, at 10 a.m. John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, will give a talk entitled "Red and White: Settlers and Indians in Early America." Professor Demos will provide an overview of relations between Native North Americans and colonial "settlers" from overseas in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Topics will include first encounters, trade, cultural sharing and boundary-crossing, warfare, diplomacy, and change over time.

On Saturday, July 27, Eric Johnson, Professor of Anthropology at UMass, Amherst, will speak about the finds of a 4,000-year-old settlement in the Berkshires in a talk entitled "The Garden in the Woods: Archaeology at Kampoosa Bog in Stockbridge." He will tell about what these finds reveal of the earliest human life in our region.

The Bidwell History Talks are held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham at 10 a.m. Admission is $15 per person, $10 for members of the museum.

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA ♦ 413-258-4100
TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE: SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG
JULY EVENTS
6TH 3-5 PM.. IN THE GALLERY Teresa Bills - QUILTS: One Piece at a Time
6TH 8 PM..... Amber Chand
A HEROINE'S JOURNEY
(A Dramatic Comedy) $15
13th 10 AM..... SUMMER SALADS $15
27th 7 PM..... LOCAL HEROES II
Music & Dancing follow
(Free for Sandisfield residents)

Barnbrook
www.BarnbrookRealty.com

DAGMAR KUBES
Broker Associate, ABR
★
Superior Real-Estate Service tailored to your needs.
★
413 528-6485
E-mail: dagmarrealty@verizon.net
SELL * BUY * RENT

"Garden Gustation"

What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Scrumptious Strawbs

Today we hunted and gathered strawberries. We headed over to the Thompson-Finch farm in Ancramdale, New York. If you have never been, it is well worth the trip. The farm is a beautiful, well-managed place that grows organic strawberries, blueberries, and apples. I try to get there every year for "pick your own" strawberries. Today the picking was incredible. The berries were medium to large size and plentiful. We ended up picking about thirty pounds of the beautiful red sweetness. The variety we picked was called Jewel. It is always tempting when the picking is so sweet to just keep picking, but I try to remind myself that the work doesn't end with the picking. We bring the berries home and set them on the counter awaiting the eating and processing. It must happen very soon; the berries won't keep and are at their best right now. The eating is great but sometimes the processing can go on . . . and on.

We devoted two beds to strawberries a couple of years ago, one bed of Jewel and one bed of Earliglow. We enjoyed a healthy crop last year and didn't need to supplement our annual needs by heading

Stephen Moore

to Thompson-Finch. But during the summer we had some discerning lanky-legged visitors that put strawberry leaves on their evening menu. This event was disheartening and set our plants back so much that we've only had enough berries to enjoy every day for breakfast; they've been quite small and not enough for the winter. I did start a new bed last year with the runners from the existing plants, and this will become our new picking bed next year . . . I hope.

We will hull and cut up the strawberries and add a bit of sugar before freezing them in quart-sized plastic bags. I may also make some strawberry jam and, of course, strawberry shortcake. We'll have strawberries on our yogurt and maybe on our ice cream; maybe we'll even make some strawberry ice cream . . . mmmm . . . I'm making myself salivate! But one of my favorite seasonal things to make is strawberry rhubarb pie. Below is the recipe I like from the *Farm Journal's Complete Pie Book*. Don't fret if you aren't interested in making a piecrust, although you ought to give it a try, I've heard that there are premade crusts that are pretty tasty.

I hope you can plan a day to get outside and get over to the Thompson-Finch farm as soon as you can—the strawberry season is way too short and usually over by early July. Check in with them before you set out to see how the picking is going: www.Thompsonfinch.com.

Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

(*Local ingredients are underlined.*)

Pastry for 2-crust pie

1¼ cups sugar
1/8 tsp. salt
1/3 cup flour
2 cups fresh strawberries, cut up
2–3 cups fresh rhubarb (cut up in ¾-in. pieces)
1 tsp. orange zest (optional)
2–3 T butter
1 T sugar

Combine 1¼ cup sugar with salt and flour. Arrange strawberries and rhubarb in pastry-lined 9-in. pie pan. Cover with sugar/flour mixture. Dot with butter. Lattice the top piecrust and flute edges. Brush top of pie with a little cold water and sprinkle on 1 tablespoon of sugar. Place pie on a baking sheet or pie saver and bake in a hot oven (425˚) for 30 minutes and lower temperature to 375˚ for the remaining 20 minutes. Rhubarb and strawberries should be bubbling up through the lattice crust and crust should be nicely browned.

Serve warm with vanilla ice cream!

What's growing in your garden and cooking in your kitchen?

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

Eileen Lawlor
LICSW

✧ Short-Term Hypnosis
✧ EMDR
✧ Guided Imagery for Health
✧ Grief, Loss & Transition Counseling

413.528.7916
www.EileenAtStillpointStudio.com

BERKSHIRE
413-528-8059
GREAT FINDS
P.O. Box 1235, 1840 North Main St, Route 7, Sheffield Massachusetts 01257
COOL OLD STUFF
www.BerkshireGreatFinds.com info@BerkshireGreatFinds.com

June WildlifeReport

One Bagworm, Two Coyotes, Many, Many Bears

On June 17, Joe Baker saw a "beautiful tall bear" on the side of Route 23, near Walter Parks's driveway. Two days earlier, David and Ben Kraft were visiting Kathy Kraft on the corner of Beartown Mtn. and Fairview Roads and saw a mother and two cubs crossing the yard. Ben and David were in the house looking out the window, and the bear seemed to sense them, turning to look right at the window. Ben described the cubs as being the size of "a hound and a half."

On June 19, Al Schneiderman saw a bear with a cub the size of a small dog, about fifteen pounds. They were in his driveway on Hupi Road. A few days earlier, this bear or some other had been on the deck and left claw marks on the railing as it went for the birdfeeder.

Up on Mt. Hunger Road, Nancy Kalodner saw five bears in mid-June within twenty-four hours, maybe not all different individuals. There were two youngsters visiting the empty trash containers, then a large adult later in the day near Route 23, then a youngster back at the house investigating the deck, and finally the next morning, a large bear, "more dark brown than sleekly black," which showed up in the driveway.

On Beartown Mtn. Road, Jeff Coburn saw a bear in the yard on June 22 after a barbeque and got several photos as well as a video. Gerry Alpert, on Mt. Hunger Road, saw a large bear in the driveway on June 13 at 8:00 p.m. The next day she saw a "handsome muscular bobcat walking up our lily path." Gerry saw a porcupine on June 6 and a big snapping turtle, "incredibly prehistoric looking," two mornings in a row at the same place just west of Mt. Hunger Road.

Susan Sellew found a bagworm on the underside of a blueberry leaf on June 6 and sent a photo. Three weeks later she sent a report on a pair of common mergansers, seen year after year on Rawson Brook, often with ducklings. "Their reddish heads and white body splotches make them quite a sight to see," she writes.

Besides all her bears, Nancy Kalodner

reports that down the road she came upon a "splendid healthy" porcupine and a "very bushy-tailed fox." As if this were not enough, Nancy has also seen a scarlet tanager, a Blackburnian warbler, and a cottontail rabbit. In her side yard, she saw a bobcat loping across the grass. Like others I've heard from this month, Nancy is noticing a wild year in the wildflowers, from the maiden pinks to the laurels.

Will Marsh was admiring his Kousa dogwood in glorious bloom when a catbird flew from a nearby tree right up to him, about six inches from his chest, and "hovered momentarily before making a U-turn and returning to the tree, where it resumed singing."

Maureen Banner sent in a fine photo (above)of a portion of a long milksnake under the porch, and Ed Salsitz had three luna moths at once on a trellis against his house, also a June bug, which is a type of large, shiny, dark-brown beetle. Ed also found several orange efts, which are salamanders.

Frank Ashen experienced a pair of bald eagles, which "buzzed our house and perched across Lake Buel."

Steve Snyder rode his bike into the gravel pit near Gould Farm one evening and saw a deer bounding along. He thought he had spooked the deer himself, but then a coyote came over the crest, chasing the deer. Neither paid any attention to Steve, but both stopped their running for a bit until the coyote took chase again. At this, the deer flashed its tail and vanished.

"The coyote," said Steve, "didn't stand a chance."

Susan Gallant sent along the following birth announcement, with a photo of the new arrivals (above): "The Mallards of Monterey would like to announce the hatching of 10 baby ducklings. The family is enjoying the summer on Brewer Pond and the Konkapot River, where Mrs. Mallard is keeping a close eye on her new charges." Susan also saw a pileated woodpecker on a dead tree by Beartown Mtn. Road. She tried to get photographs but was so excited by the sighting that they were all badly blurred.

Send me your wildlife news.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net.

ॐ

Christopher J. Tryon
& Associates

DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

441 Main Road
P.O. Box 61
Monterey, MA 01245
413-429-4888
berkshiregeotech@gmail.com

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Poor Taste on Memorial Day

To the Editor:
On May 27 I attended Monterey's Memorial Day parade, an event my family and I cherish —not only because it heralds the arrival of summer, but also because it is a too-rare opportunity for year-round residents and summer folks to join together in commemoration of the service and sacrifice of those members of our armed forces who have selflessly defended our country in armed conflicts.

During the post-parade gathering at the firehouse, I found it extremely offensive that a woman was demonstrating by holding a sign that demanded, "Bring Our Troops Home." What could be in poorer taste on Memorial Day, a time to honor members of our armed forces who defend our freedoms abroad? Perhaps this protester ought to be reminded that the soldiers who today are fighting our country's enemies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere are volunteers—unlike the draftees who fought and died in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, who had no choice but nevertheless defended our country selflessly. Today's soldiers have made the personal choice to serve our nation.

I teach a college course on the First Amendment, so I take no issue with this person's right to express her opinion in a public setting. What I object to is her judgment in staining the honor of Monterey's brave servicemen and women—including my 94-year-old father-in-law, a World War II veteran—on a day that ought to be devoted to thanking them for keeping us free.

—Michael C. Bingham, Monterey

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Become a Friend of the Library!

Now open Fridays until 8 p.m.

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday .....2–5 p.m.
Thursday .....4–6 p.m.
Friday.....4–8 p.m.
Saturday .. 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

Contributors

Many thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions.

George Emmons
Berkshire Hatchery Foundation
Don & Erica Stern
Ron & Christine Goldfinger
Tim Lovett
Evelyn Solomon
Charles Pierce & John Farrell
Royal Shepard Jr.
Robert Semaya
David & Kathy Crowe
Sally & Steve Pullen
Jackie Smith & Ron McMahon
Amy & Al Goldfarb
Judy Bach
Susan Sellew
Paula Hartstein
Barbara & Richard Tryon
Pat Ryan
Thomas & Rebecca Bruno
Ronald Gunther
Myrna Randolph
Alan & Erma Kranz
Edith Green
Robert & Luanne Treado
Matthew Frankel
Bonsai Cox
Frank D'Amato
Adrienne O'Connell & John Branton
Herbert Coyne
Ruth Rosenblatt
Richard & Pat Edelstein
Steven Aronson
Elizabeth Thorn
Helen Kahaner
Richard Skolnik
Liana Toscanini
Debby & Mark Bauman
Judith Greenwald & Robin Fried
Nancy Torrico

Otis Country Fair July 13

The annual Otis Library Country Fair is Saturday, July 13th from 10–3:30 on the Otis Church Green on Route 8 in Otis center. Featured will be about fifty artisians selling jewelry, artwork, candles, clothes, leather goods, woodworking, plants, and more. There will be a raffle and country cookout concessions. The fair benefits the Otis Library and helps make possible new computers, extended hours, more books, and special community programs. The fair is held rain or shine.

❊

DENNIS J. DOWNING
Attorney at Law

❊

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

Curtin Roofing/Carpentry

Certification #1850
Fully Licenced & Insured

Matthew A. Curtin, Owner

62 Main Road
Tyringham, MA 01264
Tel. 413-441-9687
FAX 413-243-2124

ROOFING PROFESSIONAL

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Every Sunday through October: Softball game at Greene Park, 10 a.m.

Every Tuesday through August: Sewing circle with Mary Kate Jordan, 10–11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Every Saturday through August: Catholic Mass at Our Lady of the Hills, Beartown Mtn. Rd., 7 p.m.

Saturday July 6:

Magician Mike Bent, 10:30 a.m., Library.

Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day, 1:00–4:30 p.m., 100 Art School Road. Free community celebration with programs for all ages. See p. 3.

Every Monday, July 8–August 12: Poetry writing workshop led by Don Barkin, 7–9 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 11.

Wednesday, July 10: Public meeting on restoring Berkshire rail service, 6:30 p.m., Monument Mountain High School, Great Barrington. See p. 9.

Saturday, July 13:

John Heffernan and his Lego Robotics, 10 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Opening reception for *Matter Reconsidered* community exhibit, 7–8:30 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 11.

Monterey Community Tag Sale to benefit MontereyFest 2013, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., 69 Hupi Woods Circle. Donations of sale items needed; call 528-9090. See p. 10.

Bidwell House History Talk by John Demos: "Red and White: Settlers and Indians in Early America." Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 am. See p. 23.

Otis Library Country Fair, 10–3:30, Otis Church Green, Route 8, Otis center.

Singer/songwriters Graham and Barbara Dean will perform "Songs of the Berkshires and Beyond," 7:30 p.m., Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 8, East Otis. Free; see p. 21.

Saturday, July 20:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting, 9:30 am, Monterey Firehouse.

Story and craft for young children, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Lenox Contradance, 8–11:30 p.m., Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Live music by Tidal Wave; calling by Steve Zakon-Anderson. www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Monday, July 22: Adult book group will discuss *Defending Jacob* by William Landay, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Friday, July 26: Opening reception for *Visual Metaphors*, 5–7 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road (www.newmarlborough.org).

Saturday, July 27:

Annual book sale and plant sale to benefit Monterey Library, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Bidwell House History Talk by Eric Johnson: "The Garden in the Woods: Archaeology at Kampoosa Bog in Stockbridge." Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, 10 am. $15, Bidwell House members $10. See p. 23.

Tom Seiling will lead young and old alike in song, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, 5 p.m. Monterey Firehouse Pavilion.

Otis Arts Festival, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Farmington River Elementary School, 555 No. Main Road (Rte. 8), Otis.

Sunday, July 28: "The Nutshell Playhouse," a free program of original music, clownerie, and puppets for the whole family, 11:00 a.m., Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 8, East Otis. Information 413-269-4400.

Saturday, August 3:

Second homeowners' meeting with Select Board, 10 a.m., Town Hall.

Magician Ed the Wizard will spin his magic, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Monterey Parks Commission Movie Night, Greene Park, 8ish. See p. 3.

Music & More presents, pianist Xuerong Zhao, 4:30 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House. $15.

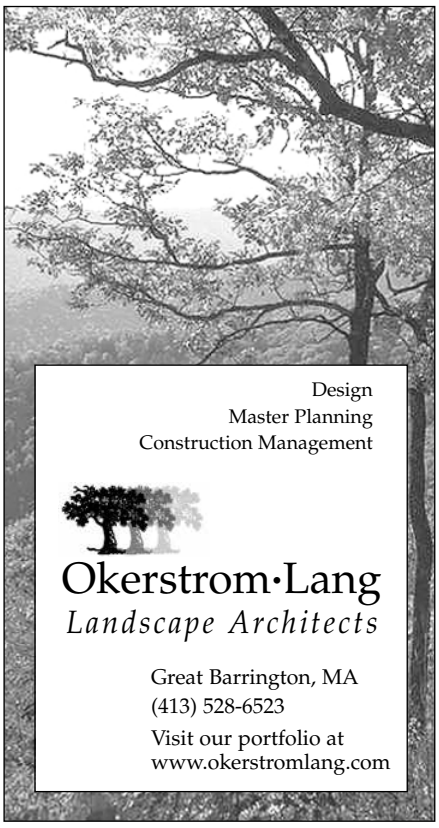
Free Latin music concert by Trio Candela, 7:45 p.m., Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 8, East Otis. See p. 19.

The Observer
May 26 – June 25

High temp. (5/31)	87º
Low temp. (5/27)	33°
Avg. high temp.	71°
Avg. low temp.	49.6°
Avg. temp.	60.3°
Total rainfall	9.03 in.

Rainfall occurred on 16 days.

Precision Autocraft
THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR
High Quality Body Repair and Finishing
▸Complete Collision
▸Paint ▸Glass Services
▸Laser Frame Measuring
▸Computer Controlled Estimating and Paint Mixing Systems
413-528-1457
1-800-734-1457
AAA Approved Auto Body Repair
Rt. 7 - 1939 North Main St. Sheffield, MA



MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
Monterey, MA 01245-0009

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GREAT BARRINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 95

Change Service Requested

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds
Celebrating over 30 years in business
528-0864
We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Buying or selling your home in the Berkshires?

CORASHIRE REALTY

Call us
Nancy Dinan
413-528-0014
Deborah D. Mielke
413-528-1871
e-mail: corashire@aol.com

Corashire Realty, est.1966
To see our Monterey Listings please visit
www.corashire.com
Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

Copyright © Monterey News 2013
email: montereynews9@gmail.com

Editor..... Will Marsh
Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Marsh
Reporter..... Susan Gallant
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local artists this month: Maureen Banner, 15; George Emmons, 20; Bonner McAllester, 16.

BIZEN
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
備前
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10